History Script

Harin: Now that imperialism is a popular trend - come on, think about it: all the powerful people with all the money – they have the whole world to themselves. The globe is playground full of the toys they want and they get them. Gaining is the real power here. Capital slash money, the enormous chains of wealth can be seen across the globe. India! Africa! China! Japan! Silks! Spices! Labor! After figuring out that gold was only a medium for true wealth, well what would happen to popular trends? They expand! Just like how everybody wants the new phone that comes out, imperialists figured the wealthy gains of copying their neighbors.

Suzie: Unfortunately, there was Russia who was also following the awfully fun game that seemed to have permeated through the biggest powers of the world.

Andrew: If your only way to get food was to climb over a mountain, well why not? People get crabby when they don’t get food, and if the mountain was really big, why not risk it? Despite the fact the Russians did try to negotiate with the Ottomans – and good for them too – they really got zero response. The Ottoman’s didn’t care and when the Russians finally gave way to launch an attack to gain the lands near the Black Sea, finally the Crimean War started.

Ottoman

Keanu: We’re basically of luck. I bet the Russians don’t know but we kind of suck now. Our empire has been pretty much the same since the late 17th century; I honestly really don’t know what point we are at now. The Russians are in luck and as much power we used to have we’ve lost most of it. Not that we’re giving up or anything but yea, we’re not at a good standing point. We are so weak now it’s frustrating. Come on! This face off won’t be a good one.

Andrew: Hello! As a respected Englishman, we are giving you help –

Suzie: Bonjour! And so are we as the French.

Why is that so?

Andrew: Because, you’re weak and we know it. Now, now, let’s beat those Russians so we can get your lands and own the world.

Keanu: What?

Andrew: Never mind.

Harin: The Crimean War – named after the peninsula it is situated from – was a brutal and poorly constructed war. Most of the fights were between the English and the Russians. Famously known for their horrendously poor execution of a war, the Battle of Balaclava became one of the most renowned battles, also known as the Charge of the Light Brigade. (0:00-2:37) Now obviously those Russians spoke English whilst they watched the British charge their well-protected fort. Nonetheless they lost miserably. Not only that, but they lost in translation for supplies and the messengers that kept failing at job really blew the British.

Suzie: Not that the Russians were doing any better. They lost AND beat the British. The situation was becoming ridiculous. No winner. No loser. Eventually the new Czar, Alexander II reconsidered the war and decided to make a treaty. The Treaty of Paris (1856) concluded that Crimea went to Russia and Kars went to the Ottomans and the Black Sea was to be a Demilitarized Zone.

Harin: Meanwhile Muhammad Ali in Egypt was enjoying respectively good wins.

Keanu: All right! We’ve taken over Syria and Arabia with much success. Those Ottomans are so stupid! They are not bothering to unlock the key of success: becoming international.

Andrew: We will start growing cotton instead of our food crops to become part of the international market. You know what? Why not go further and build the Suez Canal.

Suzie: In 1869, the Suez Canal opened but with a cost of a 450 million dollar debt.

Andrew: And the British came to own the Suez Canal. Economically though, not politically.

Harin: What was the French doing while the British were taking over the Suez Canal? They were right next to the British. Unfortunately for them though, the British had practically ended up owning all the businesses there and they were left with nothing. In 1898, the French learnt that their strategically placed colonies over lapped at a location named Fashoda.

Suzie: They would’ve had a face off, but the French were in hard place to have another war and eventually they just let their biggest bully take over the area. This was the last time France and England had a major colonial conflict. The Persians weren’t fairing very well either. After the discovery of oil in Persia in 1908, the British were interested in taking them along with Afghanistan.

Keanu: Oh geez. There’s oil here!

Andrew: Hi! I am from the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. Interested in us using that oil?

Keanu: Uh… Ok

Andrew: Thank you! Now we can monopolize this area just like we did to Egypt

Keanu: What?

Andrew Never mind

Suzie: Until 1912, the British remained one of the most major players in the Imperialism game and at a certain point, owned about a quarter of world. This was the most any country ever had imperialized. Any country that tried to modernize after Britain’s initial take over, they were just too little too late.

Keanu: What were the consequences for this region? The Ottomans lost power and land and eventually their empire dissolved to extinction. The Persians lost most of their power over their land and the dispute over Afghanistan would last them a long time of battles and loose governments. The French became a lesser power and were less expansive as the British leading to less French influence, less language.

Andrew: Mostly Africa and French Polynesia were the ones they were able to retain some of their influence. Russia had lost to the British for the Persian Gulf and was not able to become as international as they wanted. They ended up with less power than the French and even less influence.

Harin: Last but definitely not least, the British were the winners of this region and were so successful that the owned the Suez Canal and the oil production in Persia. By doing this, England could expand to the East easily and gain many colonies. Seeing as the international language is English, isn’t it logical to think that the British were the winners of this region?